

**The Honorable Ralph Hall (R-TX)**  
**Ranking Member, Committee on Science and Technology**  
**Floor Speech on**  
**H.R. 363, *SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING***  
***RESEARCH ACT***  
April 24, 2007

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chairwoman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to support what is essentially the second piece of the Science Committee's Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda package. I am pleased that this Congress continues to advance the Republican innovation agenda that the President laid out two years ago.

Primarily, this bill enhances the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program at NSF to help researchers establish a lab and pursue risky research in emerging fields and establishes a similar program at the Department of Energy. It also ensures that funding increases proportionally to the overall NSF budget for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT), which supports graduate students in cutting-edge interdisciplinary fields.

Again, most of this bill was part of a Republican-led effort in the last Congress to incorporate many of the suggestions in various innovation and competitiveness reports, without necessarily reinventing the wheel to do so. While H.R. 363 is similar to what we did last year, it does have some additions that were never vetted at the Committee level, and I have some concern with that process. I hope that as we continue the reauthorization process for NSF, the Chairman will work with me so that we can thoughtfully pass good legislation as we move forward.

With specific regard to H.R. 363, I do thank the Chairman for working with me to restore a few of the provisions that had been previously accepted by the Committee, particularly NIST report language and a Sense of the Congress that NASA also has a role to play in the innovation of the United States.

It is important, Mr. Chairman/Madam Chairwoman, that our nation continues to lead the world in technological innovation. To that end, we should support legislation that advances basic science research at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. Research conducted by these young scholars will yield countless advances. Americans understand that if we are to become energy independent we will need solutions that promote clean, affordable, and reliable American energy resources. That is why Republicans introduced this competitiveness agenda last year and that is why I continue to support this initiative. America's solutions for the future begin today.

This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 363. I reserve the balance of my time.